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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING:MFINROW:AM
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----------007765 090315Z /75
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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200845

EXDIS, USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, CY, GR, TU

SUBJECT: FIVE-POWER INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS

REF: A) STATE 190593, B) BONN 14056, C) ANKARA 5613

1. COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND ASST SEC VEST MET WITH BRITISH EMBASSY DCM ROBINSON AUG. 7 TO SHARE FURTHER TENTATIVE U.S. VIEWS ON A FIVE-POWER INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS.
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2. COUNSELOR NIMETZ NOTED THAT THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD CONSIDER THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO REPEAL WOULD BEGIN WORK ON AUGUST 10 WITH A FINAL VOTE IN BOTH HOUSES LIKELY IN SEPTEMBER.

3. NIMETZ SAID THAT HE AND VEST HAD TALKED WITH THE

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SECRETARY ABOUT A FIVE-POWER APPROACH ON CYPRUS BEFORE THE SECRETARY LEFT FOR THE MIDDLE EAST. OUR GENERAL PHILOSOPHY, NIMETZ SAID, TOWARD SUCH COOPERATION IS VERY POSITIVE BUT WE THOUGHT WE SHOULD PROCEED VERY CAREFULLY, FIRST BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, AND SECONDLY BECAUSE ANY FIVE-,OWER CYPRUS ACTIVITY SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS PRIMARILY RELATED TO SECURITY COUNCIL ACTIVITIES. THE NAMIBIA CONTACT GROUP PRECEDENT MAY NOT APPLY FULLY TO THIS ENDEAVOR BECAUSE THE FRG AND

CANADA WILL NO LONGER BE ON THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN 1979, TURKEY GENERALLY VIEWS SECURITY COUNCIL INVOLVEMENT ON CYPRUS NEGATIVELY, AND IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW FURTHER UNSC INVOLVEMENT CAN REALLY HELP TOWARD A CYPRUS SOLUTION AT THIS STAGE.

4. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT WE WANTED TO GET STARTED SOON ON AN EXPLORATORY BASIS TO SEE WHAT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. HE SUGGESTED POSSIBLY STARTING WITH A WORKING LEVEL MEETING OF THE FIVE IN LONDON OR ELSEWHERE SHORTLY AFTER SEPT. 4 AT WHICH HE AND POSSIBLY VEST COULD REPRESENT THE U.S. SUCH A MEETING COULD BE USED TO PREPARE FOR THE FIVE MINISTERS SHOULD THEY MEET LATER IN THE MONTH IN NEW YORK AT THE UNGA. NIMETZ ADDED THAT TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE THIS EFFORT SHOULD BE UNPUBLICIZED. WE WONDERED IF THE FCO MIGHT PREPARE A SCOPE/DISCUSSION PAPER TO BE DISTRIBUTED CONFIDENTIAL

BEFORE THE MEETING. WE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THE UK/US CONSTITUTIONAL AND TERRITORIAL PAPERS SHOULD NOT BE DISTRIBUTED IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING.

5. NIMETZ SAID THAT PARALLEL TO OUR COMMON APPROACH TOWARD SOLVING CYPRUS, WE WOULD IN THE SHORT-TERM CONTINUE TO WORK ON THE VAROSHA INITIATIVE AND OTHERWISE SEEK TO DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTINUING CONCERN FOR THE AREA. AT OUR FIRST MEETING WE WOULD HOPE TO DECIDE TOGETHER HOW AND WHERE BEST TO PROCEED IN THIS COMMON EFFORT. IN ANY EVENT WE WOULD KEEP OUR PARTNERS INFORMED OF OUR INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS.

6. RE REF B, DUFF OF FCO AND BRITISH EMBASSY DCM ROBINSON TALKED GENERALLY WITH VEST JULY 31 AND AUGUST 1 RE FIVE-POWER POSSIBILITIES AND PARTICULARLY STRONG DESIRE OF OWEN TO PUSH AHEAD WITHOUT DELAY. (DUFF DID NOT ACTUALLY GIVE VEST LETTER FROM HIBBERT.) VEST NOTED HE AND NIMETZ HAD NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS MATTER WITH SECRETARY BUT ON A TENTATIVE, PERSONAL BASIS HE SUGGESTED THAT FIRST STEP SHOULD BE EXPLORATORY EXPERTS-LEVEL MEETING. VEST POINTED OUT THAT FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE AUGUST 1 HOUSE VOTE ON

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TURKISH EMBARGO WAS KEY FACTOR WHICH WOULD AFFECT OUR RE-
LATIONS THROUGHOUT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. WE EXPRESSED
HOPE THAT BRITISH (AND OTHER EUROPEANS) WOULD HELP US MAN-
AGE THE SITUATION.

7. RE PARA 2 REF B, WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT PARTICIPATION
OF CANADA (OR FRG) RISK ASSOCIATING WESTERN CYPRUS GROUP
TOO CLOSELY TO UNSC SINCE WE BELIEVE BOTH CANADA AND FRG
HAVE VALID REASONS FOR BEING INVOLVED WITH CYPRUS ACTIVITY.

WE AGREE FULLY THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DIRECT CONNECTION
WITH UNSC MEMBERSHIP AND THAT 1979 REPLACEMENTS FOR CANADA
AND FRG ON UNSC SHOULD NOT JOIN CYPRUS GROUP.

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8. RE REF C, WE ASSUME ALL NINE EC MEMBER STATES WILL
CONTINUE TO TAKE INTEREST IN CYPRUS AND OTHER EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN MATTERS, PARTICULARLY WITH PROSPECT OF EARLY
GREEK ENTRY. HOWEVER, ANY INITIATIVE TO BROADEN EUROPEAN
PARTICIPATION IN A CYPRUS GROUP BEYOND THE THREE PRESENTLY
CONTEMPLATED (UK, FRANCE, FRG) SHOULD BE TAKEN EITHER BY
THE UK OR THE FRG IN ITS CURRENT PRESIDENCY CA,ACITY. WE
ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT FOR THE TIME BEING DURING THE EX-
PLORATORY PHASE BOTH THE BRITISH AND GERMANS WOULD PREFER
TO WORK IN A SMALLER GROUP. WE DO NOT THINK BRUSSELS
WOULD BE A PROPER LOCUS FOR GROUP ACTIVITIES SINCE EC
POLITICAL COOPERATION IS ESSENTIALLY CENTERED IN CAPITALS
AND BRUSSELS MIGHT GIVE THE APPEARANCE TO THE GREEK
CYPRIOTS OF A NATO ACTIVITY.

9. ACTION: ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING AS APPROPRI-
ATE. POSSIBLE FIVE-POWER INITIATIVE SHOULD NOT YET BE
MENTIONED TO GOG, GOT, GOC, OR TURKISH CYPRIOTS. CHRISTOPHER

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